



Winter
2012

Friends of BRGS

A newsletter produced by BRGS
for former students, parents and
the community

Bacup & Rawtenstall
Grammar School

ISSUE
28

Crop of Oxbridge successes

BRGS obtained an excellent set of Oxbridge successes when the A' level results were announced.

Since their interviews at the ancient universities last November, six students have been holding conditional offers and the happy and hard-working students were informed that all six had been successful in gaining their places gaining some 33 A and A* grades between them.

- Top achieving student Lawrence Clare obtained five straight A* grades enabling this unassuming student to obtain his place to read History at Christ's College Cambridge.
- Talented musician Rachel Haworth obtained a coveted organ scholarship at Sidney Sussex College Cambridge where she is reading English.
- Lydia Bruton-Jones obtained top grades in English Literature, English Language and History enabling her to progress to study English at Somerville College Oxford.
- Rebecca Shutt gained A/A* grades in Maths and all three sciences and is studying Chemistry at Queen's College Oxford.
- Double delight was shared by twins Heidi and Gemma Wardle who are studying at Selwyn Cambridge and St Edmund Hall Oxford reading History and Earth Sciences respectively. Having been together throughout their primary school at Tonacliffe in Whitworth and their secondary education at BRGS the twins have now decided that it is time for them to go their separate ways.

Director of Sixth Form Trevor Elkington said, "These fantastic results maintain the school's enviable reputation of getting students into Oxbridge every year since 1989. The success of this year's students is a tribute to their own hard work, the sterling efforts of their teachers and to the sixth form ethos at BRGS which affirms and celebrates the success of such high-achieving students."



Twins Heidi and Gemma receiving their results

Welcome!

Welcome to the last edition of 2012. We are creeping ever closer towards the start of our Centenary Celebrations from September 2013 – August 2014. The main date for your diary is the whole school reunion on the weekend of the 5th - 6th October 2013 but we have plenty of other events in the offing and we will share the programme with you in our next newsletter. If you have any ideas for Centenary events then please do get in touch.

For those of you who have looked at our website recently you may have spotted a fresh new design. If you notice anything that you valued on the previous site which is missing from the current one then please do let me know. Please also add to our growing band of followers on Twitter to keep in touch with daily life here at BRGS. You can access Twitter either through our website or at http://twitter.com/brgs_1701. You can also like us on Facebook.

Wishing you all season's greetings and a very happy new year.

Emma

Emma Gauntlett
Development Director
ecg@brgs.org.uk
Tel: 01706 234500

www.brgs.org.uk

Centenary Schedule

One highlight of the 2013-2014 academic year will be our reunion weekend on the 5th / 6th October 2013, but we have a number of events at a planning stage with dates to be confirmed in our next newsletter.

We are likely to be holding the following: a Centenary Ball and other high-profile fundraising events; a Centenary Family Weekend for former students and their families; a London reception; a celebration of music at BRGS; a Golf Day and other sporting events to name but a few. Our Year 7 students have been suggesting some wonderful ideas which will also be incorporated into the programme.

If you have any ideas for how we could mark our Centenary then please do get in touch.

Prior to our Centenary Year we are planning a further London reception in the spring of 2013 (date to be confirmed) and we are hosting a reception at Lancaster University on Wednesday 6th February 2013 from 3.30 – 5.30 p.m. for our current students who are interested in studying in Lancaster, any BRGS alumni currently studying at Lancaster and any former students who are based in the vicinity.

If you are interested in attending either of these events then please do let Emma know at ecg@brgs.org.uk

Headline results

Our students continue to excel in exams with overall achievement at A* to B level at A' level at 60% with 29% of students gaining A*/A grades. 48 students achieved the excellent standard of three or more passes at grade A*/A which constitutes almost 20% of the year group. 11 students achieved 5 or more A*/A and 5 students achieved an amazing 6 A*/A.

At GCSE level 99% of our Year 11 students achieved 5 or more A* to C grades and 22% of all grades were at A* level with 57% at A*/A. 25 students achieved all A* or A grades representing 17% of the year group.

Our English Baccalaureate figure, the percentage of students achieving an A* to C in English, Mathematics, Science (dual award or two single Science subjects), a humanities subject and a MFL subject was 75% (the national average is 15.4%).

FIREFIGHTER FORMER STUDENT PRESENTS PRIZES

Junior Speech Night, at which students are awarded their GCSE certificates, was held on the 8th November with former student Ian Nuttall as guest speaker.

Ian left BRGS in 1998 to study Environmental Geoscience at Birmingham University and subsequently became a fire-fighter in Leicestershire. In 2001 he was awarded a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship to undertake research in Canada and the USA concentrating on rescue teams who have attended large-scale disasters. This research helped him as part of the UK Fire and Rescue Service International Search and Rescue Team (UK-ISAR) which was mobilised after the 6.3 Richter scale earthquake which hit Christchurch New Zealand in February 2011.



Former headmaster Martyn Morris and current headmaster Alan Porteous

Ian gave a motivational speech encouraging students in the words of Churchill to 'never give in' and to seize opportunities. He spoke of his memories of geography fieldwork at BRGS and gaining his gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. Ian was in the initial group of students that undertook the bronze, silver and gold awards at BRGS and he was the tenth person to gain his gold award.

We are now up to 100 gold awards achieved by BRGS students as Year 13 student Dominic Walton is about to be awarded his.



Guest speaker Ian Nuttall with Mayor and Mayoress of Rossendale, Deputy Head Boy and Head Girl, Headmaster and Chair of Governors

Manchester artist's master class



Year 12 art students have been treated to artist in residency master classes by Manchester artist Anthony Ogden.

Anthony has studied the techniques of still life masters in order to recreate his own beautiful, elegantly-composed, traditional still life images. As well as engaging students with background about his life, he also showed his intricate paintings, talked about methods and demonstrated techniques. This included showing a method of building up tonal layering as an underpainting, as favoured by Rembrandt. The students thoroughly enjoyed his sessions and are currently creating wonderful layered pieces in response. Their work will be exhibited at BRGS on Wednesday June 12th, 2013 at 6pm for their annual sixth form art exhibition to which all are invited to attend.



Grandparents' Day

On 12th October over 100 grandparents and family relatives visited school to accompany Year 7 students to their lessons.

The event has become an annual highlight in the school calendar with grandparents and grandchildren alike enjoying the opportunity to share their school day. Guests were treated to science, ICT, art, German and English lessons as well as having the opportunity to see how much school dinners have progressed since their time at school!



Slither's Tale book-signing

Award-winning author Joseph Delaney visited BRGS on 25th October to speak to our Year 7 and Year 8 students. Students were enthralled by tales concerning the writing process, Joseph's inspirations and read some key extracts from his new book, *Slither's Tale*. Students also had the opportunity to ask questions and 150 eager students purchased signed copies of their favourite books.

Joseph Delaney is perhaps best known for the thriller *The Spook's Apprentice* which spent seven weeks in the best-seller charts and sold over 35,000 copies in the first few months. Most of the places in the Spook's books are based on real places in Lancashire, with the inspiration behind the stories often coming from local legends and our students loved hearing about these. These books have also inspired the forthcoming movie *The Seventh Son* due to be released in 2013, starring Jeff Bridges and Julianne Moore.

The Spook's Apprentice (2004), *The Spook's Curse* (2005) and *The Spook's Secret* (2006) have all been shortlisted for the Lancashire Children's Book of the Year Award. This award is particularly relevant to our school as our Year 9 students played a key role in the selection process in 2009 and 2011, presenting prizes and reading reviews at Lancashire County Hall.

We were very excited about this opportunity to hear from such an established and talented writer and hope his achievements will inspire our students in their own literary endeavours at BRGS.



COMINGS AND GOINGS

At the start of the academic year we welcomed Rebecca Leah to the geography department; Lynette Morris and Dr Sarah Savarin to the science department; Louise Brownlee to the art department and David Snape to the PE department. We welcomed back Natasha Richardson and Sara Bowdler after their maternity leave and congratulated Kristy Todd who returned at the end of the summer as Mrs Bamber and Sandra Connor returned as Mrs Maudsley. We also congratulated Russ Clarke on the birth of his daughter Isabella.

At half-term we welcomed back Diane Bamford after leave with her son and wished Karin Kolbuck all the best for her maternity leave and our congratulations on the subsequent arrival of her daughter Natalya.

German Exchange Visit 2012-2013

Late September saw the arrival of twenty-seven German guests from the Kaiserin-Friedrich-Gymnasium in Bad Homburg. Their week's stay included routine visits to lessons, cultural trips to York and Manchester, an evening ten pin bowling and even a hike around the Rossendale Valley with teachers David Archer and Shirley Sellens! Our guests really enjoyed the visit and their group leader Frau Friedrich commented on how approachable everyone is and how they found BRGS to be very welcoming. We look forward to our return visit in February!



members of the sixth form provide for their every whim for a day either by helping out with homework or going to the shops for them.

Sixth formers with a car were especially popular as they could be sent to fast food establishments such as McDonalds!

The day's events raised a combined total of £2002.55 for the appeal.

Children in Need

On Friday 16th November students participated in a number of events to raise money for the BBC Children in Need Appeal 2012.

These included a non-uniform day, sixth formers dressing in animal costumes and pyjamas and the holding of an auction where lower school students bid to have

Wakeboarding at BRGS

As part of BRGS's summer enrichment week six daring students attempted wakeboarding. Wakeboarding was developed from a combination of water skiing, snowboarding and surfing techniques.

During the week *BRGS Wakeboard Club* used the facilities at *Three Sisters Water Ski* and practised their skills on hallowed blue Wigan water normally only reserved for the finest skiers. Gina Foster, Matthew Bentham, Tom Ryan, Tom Lockwood, Christian Tonge and Kate Taylor all started as novices and passed Bronze Cutting Edge with some well on their way to Bronze by the end of five days.

Our thanks go to the *Three Sister's* staff for their hospitality and allowing BRGS to wakeboard on their beautiful lake and to *Water Sports World* for supplying the boards.



BRGS tours the East Coast of America

198 pupils and 27 staff took part in the 2012 trip to the east coast of America this summer. The tour started in New York where students visited the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, Central Park and other iconic landmarks. After a Broadway show and dinner in Times Square, the highlight of New York for many was the evening dinner and dance cruise on the Hudson and East River with its breath-taking views of the city at night.

A long drive to Buffalo followed and from there the group visited Niagara Falls and all got extremely wet riding the Maid of the Mist. Fortunately it was rather warm so they all dried off very quickly! The travellers then visited Binghampton and were guests of honour at the baseball game between Binghampton Mets and Portland Sea Dogs and Jessica Nixon was chosen to make the first pitch – the students even made it onto local TV!

In Philadelphia the tour took in the Reading Terminal Market, which is often featured in the programme Man versus Food. This was followed by a walking tour of the city and a visit to the Liberty Bell.

On to Washington DC where students saw the White House, Capitol Building, the Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, visited Arlington Cemetery to see the Kennedy graves and the Changing of the

Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which was a solemn ceremony. Visits to the Smithsonian Museums followed and shopping expeditions to Pentagon City and Arundel Mills Outlet Mall where they made a substantial contribution to the American economy!

All in all it was a fabulous trip. Sue Kennedy, Head of Year 7 and trip organiser said: "The pupils were amazing and were complimented wherever we went for their behaviour and manners.

It was an absolute pleasure to take them away on what was the trip of a lifetime."





World Challenge Expedition to India

After two years of fundraising and planning, sixteen members of the sixth form accompanied by geography teachers James Hoyle and Claire McClellan, set off for India this summer for a month long trip with a difference. Far from being a package tour, students on arrival in Delhi were responsible for all further arrangements! After an inauspicious start with one of the airport taxis knocking a motorcyclist off his bike things could only improve.

The first week was spent in Shey, a small town which was badly damaged by flooding of the River Indus two years ago. Purchasing all the required materials they renovated classrooms and painted murals on the walls to help the students learn English. The school sat in a dustbowl and was incredibly hot, but students stuck to their task and even hired a glazier to replace the classroom windows. Sleeping quarters were the classroom floor but thankfully, there was always time in the evening for a spot of volleyball or cricket after the sun had gone down.

Whilst working at the school and acclimatising to the altitude, the next part of their challenge was to

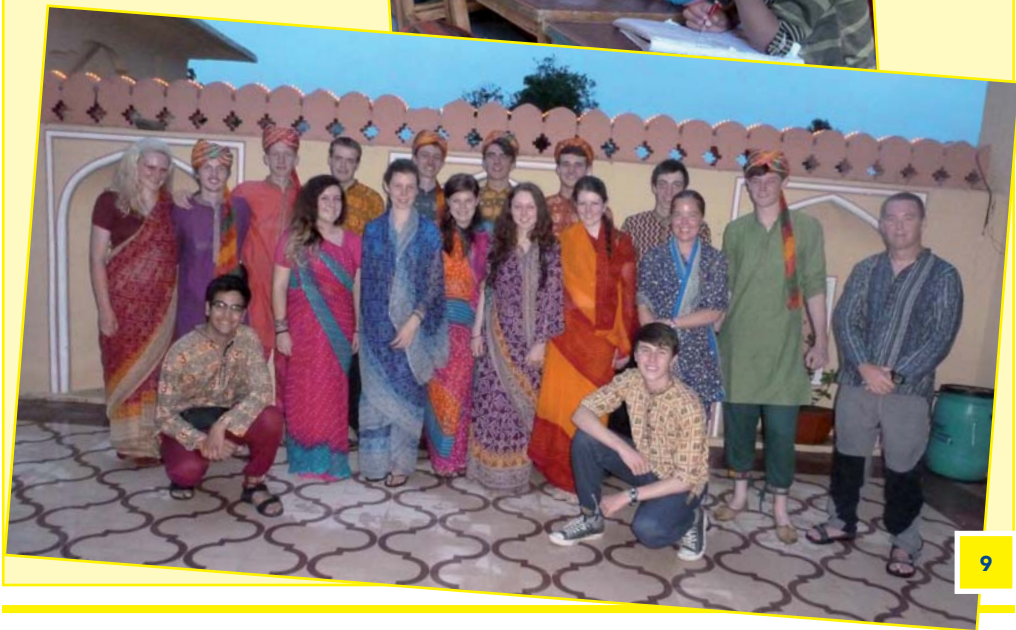
climb the mighty Stok Kangri at over 6,000 metres. Accompanied by a team of twenty horses to carry belongings, they slowly reached base camp, trekking through stunning scenery. After a rest day they rose at midnight for the final ascent, climbing through heavy snow. In spite of some mild snow blindness, all were elated to have reached the summit.

After the trek, students had the opportunity to learn more about the Buddhist culture of the area, visiting several monasteries and exploring the ancient town of Leh with narrow streets lined with bazaars. A white water rafting trip down the Zaskar was another highlight - everyone fell into the icy glacial river!

Travel in India can be a tiring and challenging experience but students learnt to be disciplined and take hygiene and hydration issues seriously. There were a few upset tummies which went round the party but thankfully, nothing too serious.

On returning to Delhi the students decided to follow the usual tourist trail and hired a coach to go to Agra, home of the Taj Mahal, and to Jaipur, the Pink City. Indian roads are not for the faint-hearted, as traffic shares the roads with camels, cows and elephants so all were glad to reach their destinations in one piece!

At the end of the month there was time for a celebratory party with students dressing up in Indian finery from the bazaars. James Hoyle said: "A month is a long time to spend together so it said a lot about the group that there wasn't one incident or fall out during the entire trip. It was a fabulous month and whilst we were glad to arrive back in the UK, we all knew we had memories that would be with us forever."



Academy Status

In line with all other grammar schools in Lancashire and many other high-achieving grammar schools, BRGS gained academy status in October.

BRGS has a history of relative autonomy having been one of the first grant-maintained schools in 1989 and more recently having Foundation Status. As an academy we will receive our funding directly from the Government, we will have greater control of our budget and the opportunity to buy in services more cost-effectively for the benefit of our students.

Our name will not change and neither will our admission policy as a selective grammar school. Governors are committed to maintaining the high standards and ethos of the school at the same time as taking advantage of some the freedoms afforded by academy status. The Governing Body carefully considered the opportunities that we could offer students, staff and the wider community and remain convinced that BRGS will flourish as an autonomous school.

Any queries regarding Academy Status then please do get in touch.

BRGS Annual Giving Appeal 2012-2013

Our Annual Giving Appeal was launched to parents during the autumn term.

The Appeal focuses on opportunities for students and will fund essential projects which directly benefit our students' learning environment. We aim to develop a culture of giving and gifts at any level would be appreciated. We are grateful for the support of former students and parents: support which is so valuable as we work ever harder to strive for excellence in difficult circumstances to ensure that what we value at BRGS can continue to be cherished.

For further information about supporting BRGS in various ways please see the 'how you can help' section of the school website under 'development and alumni'.

Thank you so much for your support.



Brave the Bullies

Year 12 student Emily Foster established the charity *Brave the Bullies* over the summer holidays as a way of remembering her friend Sam Riley a former Oulder Hill School student who committed suicide in 2009 after being the victim of bullying.

Emily has been raising funds for her charity and has established educational workshops in primary and secondary schools as well as filming an introductory video with James Alexandrou (Martin Fowler from *EastEnders*) to promote her charity. As a result of her work Emily was shortlisted out of 3,000 nominees for a Radio 1 Teen Hero Award and on the 7th October she travelled down to Wembley Arena for the final, walking the red carpet with Aled Jones and Jameela Jamil alongside Nick Grimshaw, Gemma Cairney, Kimberley Wyatt, Jorgie Porter, Ellie Simmons and Laura Trott to name but a few. We congratulate her on her work in raising awareness regarding bullying and hope that she can inspire others by her dedication to make a difference.

Digging deep to make a difference

Six Year 12 students have enrolled on the environmental afternoon enrichment project run by physics teacher David Archer.

Ameer Ali, Saumitra Mishra and Danielle Lavin, are working on a project with Civic Pride to clean up land adjacent to a lay-by on the Rawtenstall-Edenfield by-pass. Saumitra said: "Firstly we cleared the area. There were a lot of brambles and we removed them all and cleaned up the litter and also dug out the roots. The fence has now been replaced and we will be painting it and we are also going to level the land, put top soil on and plant wild roses. It has been really good to get involved and do something that is making a difference. I have also learnt a lot about Civic Pride."

Civic Pride member Alan Scowcroft said: "I think the work they have carried out has been very commendable and they have put in a lot of effort and enthusiasm."

Three other students: Helen Wilson, Hannah Powell and Suzy Barrett, are working on a heritage project in Waterfoot with a view to creating a trail map to celebrate the village's history.

David Archer said "Sixth form students could choose from a variety of activities including a driving theory course, ski lessons, volunteering in schools or arranging their own work experience placements. Wednesday afternoons also offer the chance for students to follow an extended project qualification, to participate in a Debating Society or Ethical Issues group for aspiring medics. There is lot to choose from!"

Since November students have been carrying out environmental work in Edgeside Park alongside the local residents' groups thanks to a Green Partnership Award of £500 which David secured to be used for tools, plants and compost. Rossendale charity REAL is supporting the project and community development officer Caroline Collins said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for these young people to get involved in their community and the hard work they are putting in will benefit many for a long time to come."

Any community group that would like assistance from the students on a Wednesday afternoon can contact David at BRGS on 01706 234500.



Deputy Head's Distinction

Former BRGS Deputy Head Dr Arthur Robinson (1990 – 2007) has been busy in his 'retirement' and after three years of part-time study he has been awarded an MA with Distinction in Lake District Studies by Lancaster University.

His research in 2011 was entitled "How do topography and availability of till influence drumlins east of Kendal, Cumbria." Little is known about how these landforms are created but there is a major world focus on them at the moment because they are thought to be important in the dynamics of the West Antarctic ice sheet whose melting due to global warming would have catastrophic consequences. Arthur's paper was published in the Proceedings of the Cumberland Geological Society in March 2012.

The research carried out this year was entitled "Spatial variations in structural connectivity and temporal changes in connectedness of a field boundary network in southern Cumbria." It looked at the scale and nature of field boundary changes in an area of 47 SqKm since the early nineteenth century and employed statistical and network analyses to create a mathematical model to describe the quality of the network for the movement of species. It contributes to understanding of how species can move through the landscape to maintain viable populations where habitats are widely separated by fields and settlements and the ease with which species can migrate driven by global warming.

For those of you who know Arthur his further studies sum up his continued enthusiasm for learning and we congratulate him on his achievement.

Sports Reports

Rowing bronze medal for Jess

Year 13 student Jess Leyden recently competed in the Jubilee Regatta at Dorney Lake near Windsor, used as a venue for the 2012 Olympics rowing events.

Entered in the WJ19 double scull category in this prestigious competition, Jess had to race against 44 other teams: including international under-23 and senior crews. Jess and rowing partner, Emily Ford, won their Women's Junior 19 category and got through to the final of the main double sculls event finishing in third place to win the bronze medal. This was another successful competition for Jess who recently competed for Great Britain at the Junior World Rowing Championships in Bulgaria, finishing seventh. For 2013, Jess now hopes to be selected for the Great Britain team to compete in the Australian Youth Olympic Festival in January and the Junior World Rowing Championships in Lithuania in August.



Street Cheer Award winners

On the 11th October 2012 pupils from Years 8-11 took part in a UKCA Street Cheer Leadership Course, hoping to gain a Level 1 NGB award.

The course was led by UKCA tutor Lindsay High and lasted for 6 hours with an exam at the end. All the pupils worked hard at developing their communication skills and through the day they managed to create their own routines.

The pupils were all successful in their exam, and were awarded with an NGB Level 1 Certificate in Street Cheer – well done girls!



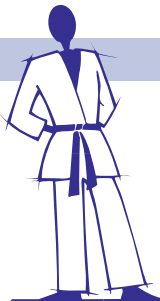
Cross-country champions

Well done to all students representing BRGS at the Rossendale Schools' Cross Country Championships at which BRGS were the overall winners.

The Year 7 teams and the Year 8 & 9 Girls' Team were all placed first with all the other BRGS teams placed second. Individual achievements were: Ben Green (1st Y7 Boys); Corinna Haworth (1st Y7 Girls); Emily Morgan and George Wilson (2nd Y7 Girls and Boys); Sarah Longshaw (2nd Year 8 & 9 Girls) and Connor Richardson (2nd Year 10 & 11 Boys).

World Karate Champion

Congratulations go to Jacob Lineker Year 12 who returned to the UK on Wednesday 7th November from the World Karate Championships with one gold medal and two bronze medals.



Sports Reports

Fell-running Flanagan



Year 11 student Rebecca Flanagan recently represented England at the fell-running Home International Championships in Melmerby near Penrith.

Competing in a 4 km uphill race, Rebecca came 5th in a time of 25 minutes and 22 seconds. September sunshine shone on the athletes as they participated with the races starting at various points between the village of Melmerby and the finish on the top of Hartside Moor depending on the race distance. The Under 16 girls including Rebecca ran 4.3 kilometres. England's Annabel Mason was the first to the top followed by Bronwen Owen in second with Rebecca Flanagan reaching the summit in 5th place and her final team-mate Rosie Dale finishing in 6th to bring the team home in first position overall.

Rebecca also came third in the under 17 category at the England School Fell Championships in Cockermouth, Cumbria on Sunday 30th September and finished eighth overall (first girl) in the Under 17s Competition at Grasmere on the 26th August 2012. **Well done Rebecca!**

Two World Kick Boxing Champions!

BRGS students Charlotte Fagg and Ryan Grenfell have returned home from the World Kick Boxing Championships in Canada with a total of eight medals! Charlotte won three Gold and two Bronze medals and Ryan won two Silver medals and one Bronze medal.

The full results can be seen on the World Kick Boxing website at www.worldkickboxingcouncil.com/updates.htm

British Schools' Orienteering Championships

The 2012 British Schools' Orienteering Championships took place in Delamere Forest near Tarpoley in Cheshire, during the Autumn Term.

Over 900 pupils made the journey from all over the UK to enjoy a weekend packed full of fun and orienteering. The weather held for most of the weekend and everybody was in good shape due mainly to the excellent training since September led by Hamish Willis and the Junior Leaders (Jamie Hoyle, Lewis Robinson and Hannah Goldswain).

The best individual performance came from Corinna Howorth (Y8) who finished in 1st place, Hannah Goldswain (Y10) who finished 9th and Rebecca Hall (Y8) who finished 10th.

The best team performance was the Year 8 Girls' Team (Corinna Howorth, Rebecca Hall and Chloe Brotherton) who came first, winning the Y8 Girls' Team Trophy.



Engineering Your Future



In October, a group of Year 11 and Year 12 students participated in an engineering training and careers event.

The group took part in a range of both informative and practical seminars throughout the day as well as a careers information 'market place' which provided information

on routes into engineering training through both apprenticeships and university degree courses.

Students valued the careers advice offered at this annual event organised by STEMNET which seeks to actively promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths activities for students.

Who? What? Where? When?

Thank you to Vikki Harrison who spotted the following people in the photo in the last edition of Friends: Amy Gibbons, Mark Hawthorne, Saswata Sen, James Clarke, Emily McCormack, Ryan Bradshaw, Naomi Shearon and Elizabeth Ashburner.

The photo featured here from the 1950s comes courtesy of Cathy Netherwood.



Obituaries

- We were saddened to learn of the death of Sam Brearley on the 3rd August 2012. Born in Bacup in 1912 and son of the former Burnley football player Bert Brearley, Sam arrived at BRGS in 1924. He excelled in gymnastics and was Swimming Champion for two years before leaving to join the family building firm.

In the evenings he played in concert parties and then, aged 21 began playing leading roles with Crawshawbooth (later Rawtenstall, now Rossendale) Amateurs. Answering an advertisement in *The Stage* he became an assistant stage manager at Rochdale Theatre Royal where the juvenile lead was Peter Cushing who later became the star of many horror films. Sam won a scholarship to RADA during which a highlight was meeting George Bernard Shaw and being advised on his performance in *Back to Methuselah* at the Academy.

As the war started Sam joined up and after several overseas campaigns arrived in Greece as it was being overrun by the Germans and he was captured in the port of Kalamata becoming one of thousands of Prisoners of War who began a forced march to Germany followed by internment for four years. In the prison camp in Spittal, Austria were 6,000 'guests' with talents and experiences from all works of life so it was not too difficult to turn a large hut into a theatre which was equipped for performances of everything from Shakespeare to pantomime and revue. Sets were built and painted, costumes and wigs made from whatever



was available, orchestras formed and casting (including all female roles and even 'usherettes') completed.

Sam became a leading director of plays and would remark how Camp

Commandment and Officers enjoyed the shows – but always left before the National Anthem!

He was freed in May 1945 and returned to Bacup where he met his future wife Evelyn. He was warmly welcomed into local theatre groups, directing and playing for Rawtenstall and Bacup Amateurs and for The Rossendale Players.

Sam and his wife left the Valley in the 1950s to live in Kent but returned to Lancashire in the 1990s. He died in August at the age of 99 and 7 months, only weeks after finally receiving his medals for the Greek Campaign.

Our thanks go to former student Stanley Whittaker for providing a photograph and biographical details about Sam.

- Freda Tomlinson died peacefully at the age of 89 years at Manor House, Chatburn but formerly living in Rawtenstall. Freda was a great supporter of BRGS and would often reminisce about her time at school and how she earned her Sports Blue in running and jumping as well as playing in the first netball and hockey teams. She was a former teacher who spent a year teaching in Australia in the 1950s under a teachers' exchange scheme during which she visited the Barrier Reef, ate suckling pig in Tahiti and visited the Panama canal. However, she concluded that she much preferred teaching at home which to Freda was back in the Rossendale Valley until a fall meant her moving to Chatburn. We send our love and best wishes to her family.
- Kenneth Simpson sadly died on the 13th July. He was a pupil between 1937-1944 and then served with the army for five years before becoming an agent for Prudential Insurance Company and working for the Inland Revenue. He was heavily involved in many organisations in Bacup as Chairman of Bacup Borough Football Club, Secretary of Stacksteads Band and Curator of Bacup Natural History Society.

Message Board

- Congratulations to former student Connie Hartley who secured a place on a highly competitive course at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to study for her BA in acting. We look forward to seeing her treading the boards professionally.
- Well done to Emma Pawluk who has passed the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC) at Manchester Metropolitan University. Emma was third overall and has been nominated for a scholarship.
- Natalie Lewis also studied at Manchester Metropolitan University and has graduated with a 2:1. She is now working as a maths teacher at Hollingworth Business and Enterprise College.



- Our congratulations to former art teacher Reverend Jack Cawthorne on his 90th birthday party. He is pictured celebrating with his wife Betty.
- Well done to Philip Hargreaves who has just gained his PhD in engineering.
- Loren McLaughlin née James (1994 – 2001) is now working as Assistant Script Editor on the Channel 4 programme Shameless.
- Take a look at former student Ben Blomerley's website called www.askherfriends.com which was designed to support men in buying great gifts for the women in their lives! Ben graduated with a master degree in chemistry (with French), became a chartered accountant and studied for his MBA at INSEAD in France during which time he created his business.



- Laura Proctor graduated from Edinburgh University in June 2012 as a veterinary surgeon and then celebrated her wedding in August. Congratulations!

- Rachel Jones (formerly Rachel Barlow 2001-2008) was awarded a First Class Honours degree in archaeology from Edinburgh University and started a research Master's degree in September after her marriage on the 1st September to Alan Faulkner.



- Pat Mackay née Patricia Dixon Barnes (1941-1946) wrote to say that "dear Mrs Hebden would have been pleased" that she has written a book about her life which was entered into the Saga magazine Life Story competition. Pat was one of two runners-up out of 5,000 entries.
- Former head boy Gareth Hughes (left in 2008) graduated with a first class degree from Manchester University and was awarded "The Manchester Geographical Society Award 2011/12".
- Lindsay Parkinson, Emma Arnold and Sarah Stokes have all graduated with first and upper second class honours degrees from Edge Hill University.
- Former students Adam Sutcliffe (1998 – 2005) and Lauren Jackson (2000 – 2007) tied the knot in August 2012. We wish them every happiness.



Bacup & Rawtenstall Grammar School

Glen Road, Waterfoot, Rossendale,
Lancashire BB4 7BJ
Tel: 01706 234500 E-mail: ecg@brgs.org.uk
Web site: <http://www.brgs.org.uk>